AMERICAN GI FORUM of the UNITED STATES
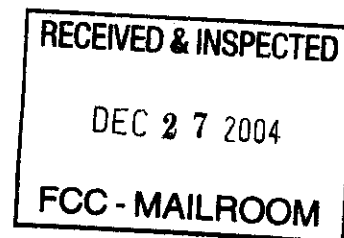
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December 12, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

We are concerned that the FCC is considering adding new fees to prepaid calling cards that could raise the costs of these cards by a crippling 20%. At a time when military families must endure being without their loved ones for long periods of time, it is shocking that the Commission would even entertain imposing new fees on these cards—a true life line for soldiers on the frontline.

[INSERT DESCRIPTION OF GROUP]

The importance of pre-paid calling cards for our troops cannot be understated, with 95% of American men and women in uniform using prepaid calling cards. Prepaid calling cards offer rates as low as three cents per minute, which is a real break for soldiers who need to stay in touch their spouses, children, and parents. The last thing our troops should have to think about is what it will cost to call home while they are in harms way.

Our military is under the stress of being in hostile areas, while their families live with emotional and financial stress. Adding to their burden by increasing fees on prepaid calling cards simply makes no sense. We urge you to the hold the line for American forces and send a message to them on behalf of the FCC. The cost of prepaid calling cards should not go up at the expense of those who work to secure us day after day.

Sincerely,

National Civil Rights Director

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
        Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
        Commissioner Kevin Martin
        Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

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